WEEKLY SPRING FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK
Friday April 1, 2011

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

Peter J. Boynton, Commissioner

DAYTIME HEATING DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DEPLETED THE SNOWPACK IN THE LOWER ELEVATIONS OF NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND…

During the past 14 days the higher sun angle and longer days have significantly depleted the snowpack across the valleys of Northern New England. Today's storm largely missed Northern New England and left a light snowfall across Southern and Central New England. Readings along the Connecticut river indicate that a slow gradual melt is ongoing in Northern New England.

CURRENT CONDITIONS:

As of April 1st, the current Snow Depth (see maps) and Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in Connecticut have increased slightly as a result of today's wet snowfall. The snowpack in Central and Northern New England remains above normal (150 – 220%). Note: The normal snow depth for all locations in New England for this time of year is rapidly decreasing each week. Therefore a reading of 200% above normal today is not nearly as significant as the same reading would have been on March 1st when the normal snowpack was nearly 5 times greater. The current snow density in Central and Northern New England is ripe in valley locations.

Current Statistics at a glance…	NW and NE Hills	Central New England	Northern New England
Average Snowpack Depth	3"	6"	16"
Percent of Normal	150%	220%	150%
Snow Water Equivalent	1/2"	2"	4"
Snow Density (Ripeness)	20%	35%	25%
Ice Jam Potential	None	None	Low

CURRENT FLOOD POTENTIAL…SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL FOR LARGER RIVERS:

The current flood potential remains slightly above normal for the larger rivers (e.g. Connecticut, Housatonic, Farmington etc.) in Southern New England and Connecticut. The flood potential for the smaller rivers remains normal for this time of year. The long range GFS forecast is indicating above normal levels of precipitation for the next 14 days with a total of approximately 2.3 inches of rain expected. Slightly below normal temperatures are expected which may slow the current rate of melting in Northern New England somewhat. Any flooding that takes place on the larger rivers is now becoming more rainfall dependant and less snowmelt dependant. Approximately 20% of the runoff in the Connecticut River basin can be controlled by flood control dams in Northern and Central New England. It would now take a very heavy rain event (over 6" of rain in 36 hours) during the next two weeks to result in moderate to major flooding on the larger rivers. DEMHS will continue to monitor the current spring flood potential and will issue another update on April 15th.

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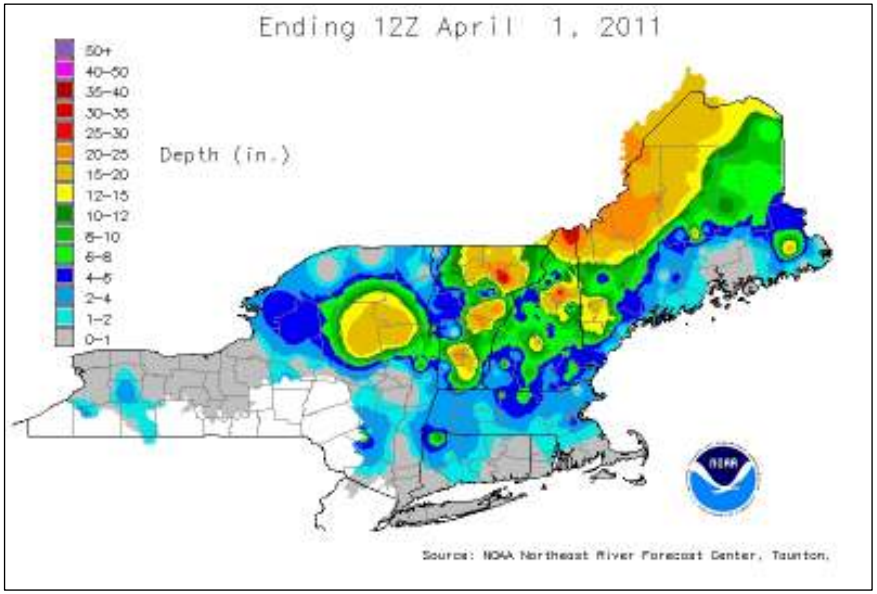
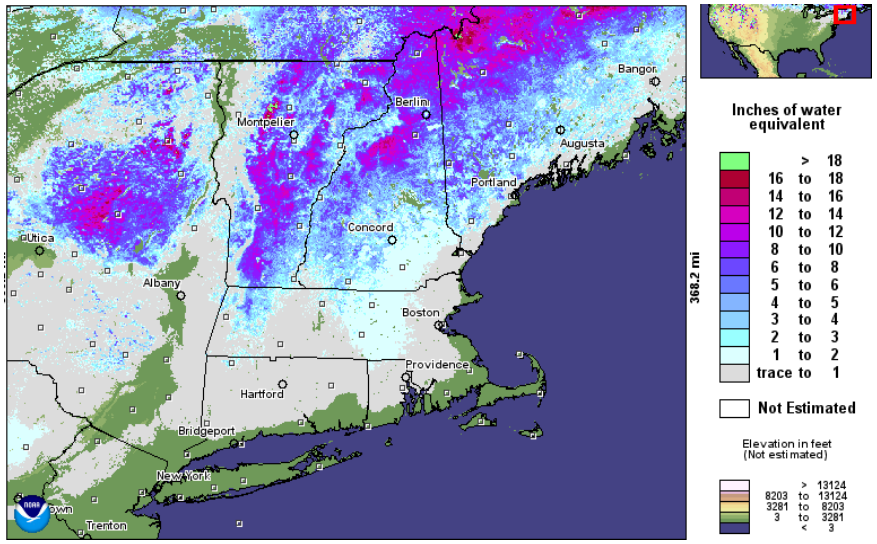


CURRENT SNOW DEPTH MAP



CURRENT WATER EQUIVELANT MAP